CLAIMS

Therefore, having thus described the invention, at least the following is claimed:

1. A method for providing television functionality comprising:

tracking viewing parameters corresponding to services that are provided to a user;

determining a user preference for a viewing parameter;

receiving user input requesting television functionality; and

providing a user with a result that is responsive to the user input and to the user preference.

2. The method of claim 1, where the user preference is determined based on a duration that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user.

3. The method of claim 1, where the user preference is determined based on a frequency that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user.

4. The method of claim 1, where the user preference is determined based on a duration and a frequency that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user.

5. The method of claim 1, where the user preference is for a service.

6. The method of claim 1, where the user preference conflicts with another user preference.

7. The method of claim 1, where the user preference is defined by a user.

8. The method of claim 1, where the user preference is determined by tracking services that are provided by a digital home communication terminal.

9. The method of claim 1, where the result is only provided if a preference-adaptive mode is activated.

10. The method of claim 9, where the preference adaptive mode is activated via a switch located on a remote control device.

11. The method of claim 1, where user preference is determined based on user input.

12. The method of claim 11, where the user input indicates a preference for a viewing parameter.

13. The method of claim 11, where the user input indicates a preference against a viewing parameter.

14. The method of claim 11, where the user input indicates a preference for a first viewing parameter and a preference against a second viewing parameter.

15. The method of claim 1, where a preference tracking database is used to keep track of the user preference.

16. The method of claim 15, where the preference tracking database keeps track of user preferences for a plurality of types of viewing parameters.

17. The method of claim 15, where the user preference is tracked by assigning a score to a viewing parameter.

18. The method of claim 17, where the score for a viewing parameter may be based on a weighted linear combination of scores associated with the viewing parameter.

19. The method of claim 17, where the score for a plurality of viewing parameters may be based on a weighted linear combination of scores associated with the plurality of viewing parameter.

20. The method of claim 17, where the score for a viewing parameter changes over time.

21. The method of claim 17, where the score for a viewing parameter is revised using statistical analysis.

22. The method of claim 17, where the score for a viewing parameter is determined using an artificial intelligence technology.

23. The method of claim 1, where data identifying the user preference is stored in non-volatile memory.

24. The method of claim 1, where data identifying the user preference is stored within a digital home communication terminal.

25. The method of claim 1, where data identifying the user preference is stored within a headend device.

26. The method of claim 1, where the user preference corresponds to at least one viewing parameter.

27. The method of claim 26, where the viewing parameter is a television service.

28. The method of claim 26, where the viewing parameter is a type of television service.

29. The method of claim 26, where the viewing parameter is a television instance.

30. The method of claim 26, where the television instance is a television program.

31. The method of claim 26, where the viewing parameter is a type of television instance.

32. The method of claim 26, where a look-up table is used to determine the user preference for a viewing parameter.

33. The method of claim 26, where a look-up table is used to determine a user preference for a plurality of viewing parameters.

34. The method of claim 33, where a number of viewing parameters represented in a first look-up table entry is independent from a number of viewing parameters represented in a second look-up table entry.

35. The method of claim 26, where a plurality of look-up tables are used to determine a user preference for a plurality of viewing parameters.

36. The method of claim 26, where the television functionality comprises a presentation of an interactive program guide (IPG).

37. The method of claim 36, where the result is an IPG that does not provide information corresponding to a time slot that is not in accordance with the user preference.

38. The method of claim 36, where the result is an IPG that is configured in accordance with the user preference.

39. The method of claim 36, where the result is a presentation of an initial IPG screen that lists at least one television service that corresponds to the viewing parameter.

40. The method of claim 39, where the initial IPG screen lists a plurality of television services that correspond to the viewing parameter.

41. The method of claim 39, where the initial IPG screen does not list any television services that do not correspond to the viewing parameter.

42. The method of claim 26, where the television functionality comprises tuning to a television service.

43. The method of claim 42, where the result comprises tuning to a television service that corresponds to the viewing parameter.

44. The method of claim 26, where the television functionality comprises tuning to a user identified television service.

45. The method of claim 44, where the user identified television service corresponds to the viewing parameter.

46. The method of claim 45, where the result comprises not tuning to the user identified television service.

47. The method of claim 46, where the result comprises prompting a user to provide additional input.

48. The method of claim 47, where the additional input comprises a personal identification number (PIN).

49. A system for providing television functionality comprising:

logic for tracking viewing parameters corresponding to services that are provided to a user;

logic for determining a user preference for a viewing parameter; and

logic for providing a user with a result that is responsive to the user input and to the user preference.

50. The system of claim 49, where the user preference is determined based on a duration that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user.

51. The system of claim 49, where the user preference is determined based on a frequency that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user.

52. The system of claim 49, where the user preference is determined based on a duration and a frequency that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user.

53. The system of claim 49, where the user preference varies over time.

54. The system of claim 49, where the user preference is for a service.

55. The system of claim 49, where the user preference conflicts with another user preference.

56. The system of claim 49, where the user preference is defined by a user.

57. The system of claim 49, where the user preference is determined based on tracking services that are provided by a digital home communication terminal.

58. The system of claim 49, where the result is only provided if a preference-adaptive mode is activated.

59. The system of claim 58, where the preference adaptive mode is activated via a switch located on a remote control device.

60. The system of claim 49, where user preference is determined based on user input.

61. The system of claim 60, where the user input indicates a preference for a viewing parameter.

62. The system of claim 60, where the user input indicates a preference against a viewing parameter.

63. The system of claim 60, where the user input indicates a preference for a first viewing parameter and a preference against a second viewing parameter.

64. The system of claim 49, where a preference tracking database is used to keep track of the user preference.

65. The system of claim 64, where the preference tracking database keeps track of user preferences for a plurality of types of viewing parameters.

66. The system of claim 64, where the user preference is tracked by assigning a score to a viewing parameter.

67. The system of claim 66, where the score for a viewing parameter may be based on a weighted linear combination of scores associated with the viewing parameter.

68. The system of claim 66, where the score for a plurality of viewing parameters may be based on a weighted linear combination of scores associated with the plurality of viewing parameter.

69. The system of claim 66, where the score for a viewing parameter changes over time.

70. The system of claim 66, where the score for a viewing parameter is revised using statistical analysis.

71. The system of claim 66, where the score for a viewing parameter is determined using an artificial intelligence technology.

72. The system of claim 49, where data identifying the user preference is stored in non-volatile memory.

73. The system of claim 49, where data identifying the user preference is stored within a digital home communication terminal.

74. The system of claim 49, where data identifying the user preference is stored within a headend device.

75. The system of claim 49, where the user preference corresponds to at least one viewing parameter.

76. The system of claim 75, where the viewing parameter is a television service.

77. The system of claim 75, where the viewing parameter is a type of television service.

78. The system of claim 75, where the viewing parameter is a television instance.

79. The system of claim 75, where the television instance is a television program.

80. The system of claim 75, where the viewing parameter is a type of television instance.

81. The system of claim 75, where a look-up table is used to determine the user preference for a viewing parameter.

82. The system of claim 75, where a look-up table is used to determine a user preference for a plurality of viewing parameters.

83. The system of claim 82, where a number of viewing parameters represented in a first look-up table entry is independent from a number of viewing parameters represented in a second look-up table entry.

84. The system of claim 75, where a plurality of look-up tables are used to determine a user preference for a plurality of viewing parameters.

85. The system of claim 75, where the television functionality comprises presenting an interactive program guide (IPG).

86. The system of claim 93, where the result comprises an IPG that does not provide information corresponding to a time slot that is not in accordance with the user preference.

87. The system of claim 93, where the result comprises an IPG that is configured in accordance with the user preference.

88. The system of claim 93, where the result comprises presenting an initial IPG screen that lists at least one television service that corresponds to the viewing parameter.

89. The system of claim 94, where the initial IPG screen lists a plurality of television services that correspond to the viewing parameter.

90. The system of claim 94, where the initial IPG screen does not list any television services that do not correspond to the viewing parameter.

91. The system of claim 75, where the television functionality comprises tuning to a television service.

92. The system of claim 91, where the result comprises tuning to a television service that corresponds to the viewing parameter.

93. The system of claim 75, where the television functionality comprises tuning to a user identified television service.

94. The system of claim 93, where the user identified television service corresponds to the viewing parameter.

95. The system of claim 94, where the result comprises not tuning to the user identified television service.

96. The system of claim 95, where the result comprises prompting a user to provide additional input.

97. The system of claim 96, where the additional input comprises a personal identification number (PIN).

98. A method for providing television functionality comprising:

tracking viewing parameters corresponding to services that are provided to a user;

determining a user preference for a viewing parameter;

receiving user input requesting television functionality; and

providing a user with a result that is responsive to the user input and to the user preference;

where the user preference corresponds to at least one viewing parameter;

where the user preference is determined based on a duration that a service characterized by a viewing parameter is presented to a user;

where the user preference is determined by tracking services that are provided by a digital home communication terminal;

where a preference tracking database keeps track of user preferences for a plurality of types of viewing parameters;

where the user preference is tracked by assigning a score to a viewing parameter;

where data identifying the user preference is stored within a digital home communication terminal;

where a look-up table is used to determine the user preference for a viewing parameter.

99. A method for providing television functionality comprising:

tracking viewing parameters corresponding to services that are provided to a user;

determining a user preference for a viewing parameter;

receiving user input requesting an interactive program guide; and

providing a user with an interactive program guide that is responsive to the user input and to the user preference.

100. The method of claim 99, where the step of tracking comprises measuring time periods that services corresponding to one or more of the viewing parameters are provided to a user.

101. The method of claim 99, where the step of tracking comprises determining a number of times that services corresponding to one or more of the viewing parameters are provided to a user.

102. A method for providing television functionality comprising:

tracking viewing parameters corresponding to services that are provided to a user;

determining a user preference for a viewing parameter;

receiving user input requesting a television service; and

providing a user with a television service that is responsive to the user input and to the user preference.

103. The method of claim 102, where the step of tracking comprises measuring time periods that services corresponding to one or more of the viewing parameters are provided to a user.

104. The method of claim 102, where the step of tracking comprises determining a number of times that services corresponding to one or more of the viewing parameters are provided to a user.